■(b) INSAT-IB and INSAT-ID are providing operational services in the areas of TV networking and broadcasting, Telephone Telegraphy communications, meteorological imaging and data dissemination, disaster warning services, emergency communications, rural/remote are a communications and radio networking. IRS-1A is used for providing information for management of natural resources and environment.

(c) The use of INSAT-1 satellites (INSAT) has been instrumental in rapid expans'on of TV coverage in the country with more than 520 TV stations and 35,000 direct reception centres served by INSAT Network. INSAT is used for broadcasting educational programmes under the UGC Programme. The telecommunication service with 106 earth stations covering 119 telecom routes are served by INSAT. These are also used for conn-ecting remote areas and offshore islands with the rest of the country: and a satellite based rural telegraphy service has been started on an experimental basis in the north-eastern region. INSAT has also been providing continuous pictures of clouds over the Indian Ocean region which is used for meteorological studies and weather prediction. INSAT also serves for quick and timely dissemination of meteorological data collected from various land and ocean (based plat-forms in Indian region. The disaster warning system served by INSAT with about 100 platforms off the eastern coast, have been responsible for issu, ing timely warnings about cyclones etc., and these have enabled advance actions for evacuation and thereby saving precious lives during cyclones in the past.

The information generated from IRS-1A satellite are being used for ground water potential zone mapping in 442 districts in the country in a record time, which has increased the success rate to about 90 per cent as compared to about 40 per cent when conventional methods alone are used. IRS imageries have been used to pre pare wasteland maps in as many as 146 districts from which data base of wasteland at village level could be .generated for the first time in the country. Satellite remote sensing data has also been responsible for accelerating the forest monitoring methodology and biennial mapping of the country's forest resources (by the Forest Survey of India (FSI) has now been made possible. Satellite data has also been very useful in agricultural drought assessment; and already drought assessment bulletins are being generated regularly on a fortnightly basis covering 246 drought-prone districts and these provide useful information. for the district authorities to take necessary steps. In view of the availability of satellite data, it is possible to generate in almost near rea] time, the flood area maps and make flood damage assessments. In the area of msrine fisheries also, the use of information provided by the satellites had resulted in identifying zones which can yeild increased fish catch. For major crops, like wheat, rice, sorghum and groundnut, large area crop acreage and production estimations are being carried out using the satellite pictures. In addition to the above, satellite data is also being used for a number of other natural resources related studies like soil resources mapping, land use, soil salinity and alkalinity map-pine, estimat'o-n of the flow of water into reservoirs, wild life habitat mapping and for deriving integrated approaches for combating drought.

उच्च शिक्षा पर वित्तीय राज सहायता में कमी

71. **श्री बलराम सिंह यादव :** क्या प्रधान मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या सरकार का ध्यान 6 जुलाई, 1990 के "स्टेटसमैन" में "एक्सपर्टस फोर कट इन सबसिडि" (विशेषज्ञ